

Southampton

# Spirit

APRIL 29, 1986.

## Superfund status for Navy site

*NADC 'is not  
polluting area'*

By Bill Devlin

Naval Air Development Center, Warminster, officials have undertaken an extensive public information campaign in attempts to head off anticipated adverse reaction to the placement of the sprawling facility on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list.

James Kingston, NADC public affairs officer, said recently that the center was notified in January that it was going to be placed on the EPA National Priorities List for potential toxic waste hazards because of eight dump sites on its grounds.

Since that time, NADC representatives have notified officials of Bucks County and surrounding local municipalities about the EPA's planned list. Kingston said all NADC personnel have been informed, and U.S. Rep. Peter H. Kostmayer, D-8, has been briefed about the facility's placement on the Superfund list.

Kingston and Joseph Clay, deputy director of the Engineering Support Group for NADC, April 21 made a presentation to the Warminster Township supervisors concerning the potential hazardous dump sites.

According to Clay, NADC employees have not dumped waste on the grounds since 1970 — although one site had been listed as active until 1980.

Clay said the sites have been monitored since 1979, and well sites on the grounds are monitored quarterly by outside engineering firms. A Reading firm, Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, is testing the sites.

Clay told the supervisors that the firm tests for 129 pollutants but specifically the tests concentrate on zinc, copper, nickel, chromium and pH levels. According to Clay, the tests thus far have shown that the pollutants are all within EPA guidelines.

A recent study concluded that the dump sites "are not contaminating the ground water," Clay told the supervisors. Clay said the study also indicated that "no remedial actions are recommended for the disposal sites."

Clay pointed out that if NADC employees were forced to clean up the eight sites it would cost millions of dollars. He also said the Navy is not eligible for Superfund monies to aid in any cleanup.

Asked by Supervisor Christopher Staub why the facility will be ranked high by the EPA's National Priorities List, Clay replied that the fact that the center's waste sites are near heavily populated areas and drinking water sources were primary considerations.

"There is a great deal of potential (for pollution of water supplies) if something starts to come out of the sites," Clay added.

However, Clay said the Navy is monitoring the sites closely and stressed that the NADC "is not polluting" the area.

Supervisors' Chairman William T. Davis thanked Clay and Kingston for the presentation.

"At least now we know about these (waste sites) and we can monitor them," said Davis, whose home borders the center. "I'm worried about the ones we don't know about."

"At one time we had a lot of heavy industry in the township. I wonder where they dumped their waste?" he added.